

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Friday - 4 December 1953

1. Col. White and I talked with [redacted] and she detailed the steps which she had taken in connection with her application for employment here and the statements which had been made to her. In view of these statements, Col. White informed her that she should enter on duty on 7 December. It was obvious that any other decision would be a great injustice to [redacted]

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2. I discussed with Mr. Sprinkle, Assistant Chief Clerk of the House Appropriations Committee, the reimbursement report problem previously noted in this week's journal. Mr. Sprinkle pointed out that the State Department hearings would not take place for several weeks as the Committee was planning to start with Justice and Commerce, and at present he saw no satisfactory solution to the report problem. He felt that if we allowed the Commerce Department report to come forward in the normal course of events, it might serve as a possible guide as to how best protect CIA security aspects in this matter.

3. Mr. Sprankle informed me that he had discussed with Chairman Taber the possibility of a Committee member spending some time at CIA to study its activities and budget. Chairman Taber has rejected this idea on the basis that it would take a week to ten days and that no Congressman presently had the time to give to such a project. However, he has reached no decision as to how best to handle the CIA budget briefings.

4. Legislative Counsel will ascertain whether Sen. Alexander Smith (R., N.J.) plans to be in Washington in the immediate future, and if so it will be considered preferable to debrief Sen. Smith and Mr. Wilcox, Chief of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, together. If, however, Sen. Smith is not planning to be in Washington in the immediate future, we will debrief Mr. Wilcox separately.

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DOS & DOJ review(s) completed.

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[Redacted]

6. Legislative Counsel will contact Sen. Capehart upon his return from his trip to South America and ascertain whether he wishes to be debriefed by CIA and whether he wishes to include Senators Bricker and Frear in such a meeting.

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7. The Director has determined that both Kermit Roosevelt and [Redacted] should be made available to the Department of Justice for interview in connection with the Davies case, and I have so informed Mr. Foley of the Department. Mr. Foley was very pleased with this decision as he feels, particularly if no indictment is forthcoming, that it is extremely important that all possible witnesses in the case will have been interviewed. Mr. Foley commented, in connection with the David Lawrence column on the Davies case, that the Department had been extremely unhappy to learn that Mr. Lawrence had been able to find out the name of the attorney working on the case (Mr. Fink), and had telephoned Mr. Fink who had given him no information. Mr. Foley stated that Mr. Fink's connection with the case had been known to only three lawyers in the Department "short of the top".

I mentioned to Mr. Foley the possibility of an agreed statement on the Davies case in the light of several possibilities. He felt that if there was a presentation of the case to the Grand Jury that there should be no statement, and that it was to be hoped that the Committee would not publish anything under these circumstances. However, if the Department were not to take the case to the Grand Jury Mr. Foley feels that the Committee might take a very strong position because of their deep belief that Davies should not be in Government and that under those circumstances the Department of Justice would wish to take a completely hands off attitude regarding any published statement. In this connection, and in particular with the possibility that the Committee would then wish to publish the complete testimony in the Davies case, Mr. Foley feels that this could be prevented only "at the highest level". It would appear at present, therefore, that the Department would not be sympathetic in helping to prepare any statement in connection with the Davies case.

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8.

[redacted] informed me that Congressman Bentley (R., Mich.) proposes to visit NCFE today to discuss certain ideas, and Congressman Bentley is completely unwitting and will not be cut in.



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